

Ronald M. Serpico  
**MAYOR**



# Village of Melrose Park



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October 3, 2018

Ms. Courtney Avery  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62761

**RECEIVED**

OCT 05 2018

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

***Re: Support for Project 17-029, DaVita Melrose Village Dialysis.***

Dear Ms. Avery and Members of the Review Board:

As the longtime Mayor of the Village of Melrose Park, I am writing to support the expansion of life-sustaining kidney dialysis services for the citizens in my community, and in doing so, I encourage you to approve the Certificate of Need for DaVita Melrose Village Dialysis (project 17-029).

The Village currently has two other similar small centers, but capacity at both is projected to be above optimal levels in the coming months, which will leave local patients to either choose inconvenient treatment times or drive to a more distant facility.

Hispanic Americans are at a greater risk for kidney disease and kidney failure, in fact, they are one and half times more likely to have kidney failure compared to other Americans, so an adequate number of stations in Melrose Park is especially vital because our village is over 70% Hispanic.

In Illinois, there is one dialysis station for every 2,694 residents, but in our local service area, there is one station for every 5,710 patients. This means that access in Melrose Park is disproportionately poor compared to access statewide and therefore dialysis services are more difficult for our community members to access.

DaVita consistently ranks first in outcomes as scored by the Federal Government in a rating system aimed at improving the quality of care provided to Medicare patients. DaVita also holds the highest total performance score among all large dialysis organizations.

I urge you to vote yes on DaVita Melrose Village Dialysis.

Sincerely,

Ronald M. Serpico, Mayor  
Village of Melrose Park